PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: A. Tabatabai
HIROYUKI SHINBATA	)	
	:	TC/Art Unit: 2625
Application No.: 09/873,340	)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 4136
Filed: June 5, 2001	)	
	:	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,	)	
APPARATUS AND PROGRAM	:	August 1, 2005

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicant notes that the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance attached to the Notice of Allowance dated June 29, 2005, refers to subject matter of independent Claims 14, 19, and 20 of the present application as follows:

> Applicant's amendment/argument (pages 5-7), filed March 28, 2005, has been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, image processing method and image processing apparatus comprises (a) calculating a parameter for determining a gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a first feature amount value, calculating a parameter for determining a gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a second feature amount value, and either the first feature amount value or the second feature amount value in combination into other features and elements of claims 14, 19, and 20.

Applicant respectfully notes, however, that independent Claims 14, 19, and 20 recite:

Claim 14 (previously presented): An image processing method for executing a gray scale conversion process on an original image, said method comprising:

a first calculation step of calculating a parameter for determining a gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a first feature amount value;

a second calculation step of calculating a parameter for determining the gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a second feature amount value;

a selection step of selecting, based on the first feature amount value and the second feature amount value, either the first feature amount value or the second feature amount value; and

a processing step of executing the gray scale conversion process on the original image based on the selected feature amount value,

wherein a first calculation method to be used in said first calculation step is different from a second calculation method to be used in said second calculation step.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus for executing a gray scale conversion process on an original image, said apparatus comprising:

a first calculation unit adapted to calculate a parameter for determining a gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a first feature amount value;

a second calculation unit adapted to calculate a parameter for determining the gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a second feature amount value;

a selection unit adapted to select, based the first feature amount value and the second feature amount value, either the first feature amount value or the second feature amount value; and

a processing unit adapted to execute the gray scale conversion process on the original image based on the selected feature amount value,

wherein a first calculation method to be used by said first calculation unit is different from a second calculation method to be used by said second calculation unit.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method for executing a gray scale conversion process on an original image, said program comprising:

code for a first calculation step of calculating a parameter for determining a gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a first feature amount value;
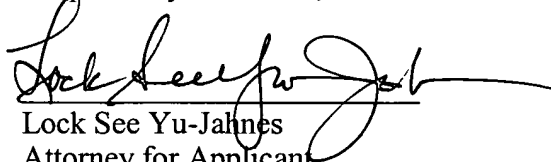
code for a second calculation step of calculating a

parameter for determining the gray scale conversion processing method from the original image as a second feature amount value;

code for a selection step of selecting, based on the first feature amount value and the second feature amount value, either the first feature amount value or the second feature amount value; and

code for a processing step of executing the gray scale conversion process on the original image based on the selected feature amount value,

wherein a first calculation method to be used by said code for the first calculation step is different from a second calculation method to be used by said code for the second calculation step.

Nevertheless, Applicant submits that all of the claims of the present application remain allowable over the prior art of record for the unique combination of features recited therein.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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